

REMARKS

By this paper, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 5, 12-14, 17-20, 28-41, 44-55, and 57, without prejudice, added new claims 58-91, and amended claims 6-9, 11, and 23-26. A marked up version of the changes made to the claims is attached, beginning at page 14. Accordingly, claims 6-11, 23-27, and 58-91 are now pending, of which independent claims 10 and 27 were pending previously, and independent claims 58 and 73 are newly added.

The Office Action indicated that independent claims 10 and 27 are allowed. Previously pending dependent claims 6-9 and 11 have been amended to depend from independent claim 10, and previously pending dependent claims 23-26 have been amended to depend from independent claim 27. Newly added claims 88-89 depend from independent claim 10, and newly added claims 90-91 depend from independent claim 27. Applicants submit, therefore, that claims 6-11, 23-27, and 88-91 are in condition for allowance. This accounts for all previously pending claims that have not been cancelled. Because these claims depend from an allowable independent claim, the rejections of record for these dependent claims are moot.

The Office Action rejected claim 57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite (improper claim dependency); claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,828,839 to Moncreiff ("*Moncreiff*"); claims 1, 5-9, 11-14, 17-20, 23-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,081,830 to Schindler ("*Schindler*") in view of the Internet document found at <<http://www.planettribes.com/presto/>> ("*Presto*"); and claims 29-41, 44-55, and

57 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moncreiff* in view of *Schindler*.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants do not necessarily concede the teachings of the *Moncreiff*, *Schindler*, or *Presto* references as asserted in the Office Action, and reserve the right to remove the references in the future. Accordingly, this response should not be construed as acquiescing the prior art status or asserted teachings of the *Moncrieff*, *Schindler*, or *Presto* references. This is particularly true of the *Presto* Internet document, where objective publication dates may be difficult or impossible to verify.

Nevertheless, the rejections of record are moot as Applicants have submitted new independent claims 58 and 73 for the Examiners consideration. The limitations of these new independent claims are neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. Among other things, for example, the cited art does not teach a service provider controlling, in the first instance, a client system's access to one or more chat rooms that have been associated with a particular video program, by the client system receiving chat link data from the service provider indicating that the client system may display a chat link for connecting to a chat room associated with the video program, and, based on the chat link data received from the service provider, displaying the chat link simultaneously with a received video program. Although not a requirement for Applicants' invention, this operation, as described in the Specification at page 18, lines 3-9, allows the service provider to contract with a broadcast network to have a chat rooms for the shows broadcast by that network.

In contrast, *Moncrieff* discloses a user interface for a computer that helps the user search for and find available chat rooms for broadcast video programs. Col. 5, ll.

31-63. Using a program guide database associated with the user, the user selects from channels available from his carrier, and then chooses from chat rooms established for the selected channel. Col. 5, ll. 46-63. Accordingly, *Moncreiff* simply discloses an automated search engine for available chat rooms. Among other things, however, *Moncreiff* does not teach, suggest, or motivate, receiving and displaying a video program, receiving chat link data from a service provider indicating that a client system may display a chat link for connecting to a chat room associated with the video program, and based on the chat link data received from the service provider, displaying the chat link simultaneously with the video program.

Schindler discloses automatically changing a user's display to a program-related chat room each time the user tunes to a different channel. Col. 6, ll. 44-60; col. 5, ll. 24-29. *Schindler* simply assumes that a chat room exists for a given television program and that the chat room should be accessible to the user. Col. 4, ll. 53-65. Among other things, however, *Schindler* does not teach, suggest, or motivate, receiving chat link data from a service provider indicating that a client system may display a chat link for connecting to a chat room associated with a video program, displaying the chat link simultaneously with the video program based on the chat link data received from the service provider, and sending a chat request to a host server upon selection of the displayed chat link.

The *Presto* reference simply suggests displaying chat text for an online computer game over the computer game's display. Among other things, however, *Presto* does not teach, suggest, or motivate, receiving and displaying a video program, receiving chat link data from a service provider indicating that a client system may display a chat

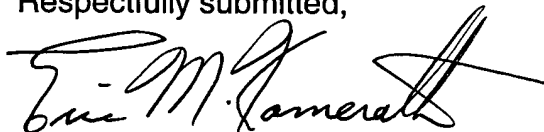
link for connecting to a chat room associated with the video program, displaying the chat link simultaneously with the video program based on the chat link data received from the service provider, and sending a chat request to a host server upon selection of the displayed chat link.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 58, with its corresponding dependent claims 59-72, and new independent claim 73, with its corresponding dependent claims 74-87, are in condition for allowance. While some of these dependent claims are similar to dependent claims that were rejected in the Office Action, the rejections of record are moot because each of these dependent claims depends from an allowable independent claim.

Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the cited art fails to anticipate or make obvious Applicants' claimed invention, and that all pending claims are in condition for prompt allowance. In the event that the Examiner finds any remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 11th day of February, 2003.

Respectfully submitted,



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 5, 12-14, 17-20, 28-41, 44-55, and 57, have been cancelled, without prejudice.

New claims 58-91 have been added.

Claims 6-9, 11, and 23-26 have been amended, as follows:

6. (Amended) The method of claim 510, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies an episode of a television series included in the video signal.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 510, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television series corresponding to the video signal.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 510, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network affiliate providing the video signal.

9. (Amended) The method of claim 510, wherein the identifying characteristic identifies a television network providing the video signal.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 410 which further comprises the steps of:

determining an identifying characteristic of the video signal; and

defining a user interface for display of the text communications, the user interface being configured to reflect the identifying characteristic of the video signal.

23. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim ~~20~~27, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television series episode.

24. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27~~20~~, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television series.

25. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27~~20~~, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television network affiliate which broadcasts the video program.

26. (Amended) The graphical user interface of claim 27~~20~~, wherein the identifying characteristic is a television network which broadcasts the video program.